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Ludlow Rural District.



ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1944.

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1944.

LUDLOW.

1st June, 1945.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the report on the Health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1944. It has been drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular 49/44, dated 19th March, 1945.

STATISTICS.

Statistics for the year are satisfactory on the whole. The number of deaths from Tuberculosis (13) is higher than in 1942 (4) and 1943 (6). The Infant Mortality rate is the same as in 1943.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No serious outbreak of any Infectious Disease took place. The protection of children against Diphtheria has continued and no case of this disease was notified.

HOUSING.

Sites have been selected for the Council's immediate post-war building programme. The fourteen Agricultural Cottages were completed during the year. It is hoped shortly to commence the survey of houses in the district.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Council have now received a preliminary report on the provision of Water Supplies for the district and this is receiving consideration. The provision of water supplies is essential before any large scale building programme can be commenced.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. AND HY.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

RONALD FREDERICK SAUNDERS, M.R.SAN.INST., M.S.I.A.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The district is a widely scattered one with a large number of villages and hamlets, and the only places of any size are Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms and Clee Hill.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants is Agriculture, but there are also a few other industries giving employment to a number of people in the places named above, and elsewhere in the area.

Employment is satisfactory at present and there are few unemployed.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	113,004
Estimated Population (mid-year 1944)	...	...	...	...	13,920
Number of Inhabited Houses as at 31st December, 1943, (according to the Rate Books)	...	...	...	...	3,852
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£66,736
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	£275 8s. 4d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS—

		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	207	95	112
Illegitimate	...	8	6	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	215	101	114
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

BIRTH-RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population = 15.4

		Total	M.	F.
STILL BIRTHS	...	6	2	4

STILL-BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 27.1

	Total	M.	F.
DEATHS	161	81	80

DEATH-RATE per 1,000 of the total estimated population = 11·5

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total Births
From Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
From other Puerperal causes	1	4·52
Totals	1	4·52

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR—

	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
(a) Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births	9	43
(b) Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	0	0
(c) All Infants per 1,000 total births ...	9	41

DEATHS from—

Cancer (all ages)	25
Measles (all ages)	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Diarrhoea (under two years)	0

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—These numbered 215 and the Birth-rate is 15·4 per 1,000 of the population (England and Wales: 17·6).

DEATHS.—A total of 161 deaths were registered and this gives a Death-rate of 11·5 per 1,000 of the population (England and Wales: 11·6).

CAUSES OF DEATH.—The chief causes of death were as follows :-

Heart Disease	30
Intra-cranial Vasular Lesions ...	17
Cancer	25
Bronchitis	17
Tuberculosis	13
Violence	7
All other causes	52
Total	161

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—One death was recorded as due to causes other than Puerperal Sepsis, and this gives a rate of 4.52 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. In 1943 there was one death and in 1942 none.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Nine deaths were reported of children under the age of one year. This is the same number as in 1943 and gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 41 per 1,000 live births. Out of 35 infant deaths in the district in the last three years, 23 or 66% have been under one month old at the time of death. The same fact is met with in the country as a whole and, if this loss of infant life is to be prevented, more attention will have to be given to the health of the mother before her child is born.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

STAFF.—In view of the work to be undertaken as regards the survey of housing, the Council had under consideration the question of appointing an additional Sanitary Inspector to help in this work, but it was ultimately decided to defer this appointment for the meantime. An additional Clerical Assistant was appointed to help in the Sanitary Inspector's office.

The question of how the survey should be carried out throughout the County is still under consideration. If the Local Authority are to carry it out themselves then it will no doubt be necessary to appoint additional staff to do the work.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—Particulars of the Ambulances available for use in the district were given in the report for 1943 (page 6).

There have been no changes during the year and no case of serious delay in getting patients to hospital have been brought to my notice.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—This is carried out by the Nurses of the local Nursing Associations, and details of the work carried out during the year will be found in the annual report of the Shropshire Nursing Federation, to which the Associations are affiliated. (Secretary: Miss L. Gough, Claremont Hill, Shrewsbury).

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.—A list of these, with days and hours of meeting will be found in the report for 1943 (page 6). There have been no changes during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

This section of the report deals with Water Supplies, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, Refuse Collection, etc.

WATER SUPPLIES.—At present the Council control a number of small supplies throughout the area and the rest of the district gets water from springs, wells, etc., and there are also some private supplies to small hamlets or estates. Probably 32% of the houses in the area have a piped supply.

The Council are awaiting a report on the whole question of available water resources in the area, and it is hoped that it will be possible in the near future to greatly increase the percentage of houses with a piped supply.

The residents in country areas are now very conscious of the importance of a good and adequate supply of water, and all future housing programmes must depend on the availability of such a supply. A survey is also being made of the county as a whole so that, where it is advisable, joint action may be taken to further satisfactory schemes.

CRAVEN ARMS.—During the summer months there was a shortage in the wells and pumping was therefore curtailed sometimes to one hour at a time continuously. The supply was maintained, however, without serious inconvenience.

At Halford, there were complaints of low pressure, and this was found to be due to encrustation of the mains. A renewal of the mains at Newington Terrace resulted in a considerable improvement, however.

The water is chlorinated and samples were taken quarterly and proved satisfactory.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER.—This supply is from an underground stream and, after being chlorinated, it is pumped to a reservoir on the Ludlow Road about a mile from the town. During the year the chlorinating plant has given some trouble and several renewals of parts have been necessary. In September the supply became inadequate to meet the demand in the area, and a temporary supply was obtained from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct.

Some heavy rains brought the supply back to normal again but it is evident that a new supply is needed here. The source

of the stream from which the supply is taken is not known, but as it is so quickly affected by recent rain-fall it is also probably subject to pollution from surface sources.

Samples were taken quarterly of the chlorinated water and proved satisfactory. Four houses were connected to the mains during the year and there only remain three cottages unconnected.

A complaint was received of the taps being affected by the water in some houses but samples analysed for injurious metals or acidity proved negative.

CLEE HILL.—This supply proved adequate in amount and of satisfactory purity. Several break-downs of the ram occurred. The spare pump body which was re-bored is being held in reserve and will probably have to be fitted sometime in 1945.

KNOWBURY.—As mentioned in last year's report, sanction was obtained for an extension of the Clee Hill supply to Knowbury. The work is now completed and about 73 houses will benefit in having a piped supply, either from stand-pipes or laid on to the houses. Five stand-pipes have been erected at Buttley Moor Lane, Scott's Lane, Cumberley Lane, Whiteway Head Lane and Knowbury Cottages.

CORELEY.—This supply has proved adequate in amount during the year. Quarterly bacteriological examinations are made of samples and in the autumn an unsatisfactory report was received. This was found to be due to some pollution gaining access to the supply at the Old Gibbett Colliery, where the supply arises. This pollution was stopped and the supply is now pure.

STOKE ST. MILBURGH.—The quality of the water at the well is usually very satisfactory, but during the year one unsatisfactory sample was obtained. The Council were advised to have the well enclosed and this matter is being considered. The new agricultural cottages have a piped supply from this source.

ELAN AQUEDUCT.—This supply was made use of at Cleobury Mortimer as already mentioned. The Council plan to secure a supply from it for Caynham, and it is also tapped at other places in the district. Samples taken show the supply to be suitable for domestic use.

The above six supplies are the principal ones from which water is obtained in the area, but there are also private estate supplies and the remainder of the houses get the water from wells and springs.

REFUSE COLLECTION.—In May, 1944, a public collection of refuse was commenced in Cleobury Mortimer and the refuse is tipped at the tip on the Ludlow Road. There is also a collection at Craven Arms, but elsewhere in the district there is no collection.

The Council hope to commence a scheme for general collection in the whole area as soon as this is practicable.

SALVAGE.—The Inspector reports that 45 tons 5 cwts. of paper were collected, jointly by the Local Authority and Voluntary bodies. In addition, a large amount of bones, rags, metal, rubber, bottles, etc., was salvaged.

SEWERS AND DRAINS.—No new sewers have been laid. A scheme of sewage disposal is required at Cleobury Mortimer and the Council have considered possible sites and have asked for a scheme to be prepared by their Consulting Engineer. There is a small disposal plant at Craven Arms, but elsewhere in the district there are no disposal works.

SECTION D

HOUSING.

The fourteen Agricultural Cottages were completed during the year and particulars of these were given in the report for 1943 (p.p. 9-10).

POST-WAR HOUSING PROGRAMME.

The sites for the seventy houses which the Council propose to build in the first post-war year have now been selected and approved by the Ministries concerned. The parishes in which the houses are to be built were mentioned in the report for 1943 (p. 10). Preliminary lay-out plans have been prepared by the architect.

A considerable demand for houses has arisen in Burford and the Council have been in touch with the Tenbury R.D.C. as it is felt that the needs of the two districts are co-related.

There is at Burford a site for twenty houses but no definite decision has been made with regard to this at the time of writing. The importance of selecting sites where such amenities as water supplies, electricity, schools, shops, roads, sewerage, etc., are available has been stressed again and again in reports from different sources during the last few years. If this is not done then it is likely that the drift from country to town will continue, as now-a-days people insist in having modern houses with piped water supplies, etc.

Twenty-eight plans were approved during the year, nine of these being in respect of alterations or additions to thirteen houses. A number of Certificates of Essentiality have been issued under the Ministry of Health's scheme for the repair of houses.

Applications for grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts were received in respect to two cottages at Sutton Hill and the work was well in hand at the end of the year.

TEMPORARY HOUSES.

The Council have not so far ordered any of these houses for the district.

HOUSING SURVEY.

The question of appointing an additional Sanitary Inspector was discussed during the year, but it has now been decided not to proceed to such an appointment in the meantime. With regard to the standards to be laid down for existing houses, the report of the Joint Committee of the Rural Districts and County Council is awaited. The Ministry of Health have advised that one standard be adopted throughout the county.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

The Inspector reports that the following inspections have been made during the year (Housing and General).

Total number of Inspections	...	1,297
Water Supply	... ..	544
Housing	... ..	96
Slaughter Houses and Food Premises		185
Dairies	... ..	46
General	... ..	426

Number of Informal Notices served	71
Number of Informal Notices complied with at 31st December, 1945	25
Number of Statutory Notices served	1

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT.

All slaughtering is now carried out at Craven Arms. The Inspector reports that conditions are not satisfactory as the buildings are not large enough. In particular, there are no

proper rooms or stores for the hanging of dressed carcasses, these being left crowded together in the slaughter house. Facilities for inspection are also poor although, as a result of representations having been made to the Ministry of Food, some improvements have been carried out during the year.

The yard drainage is poor and this also has been reported to the Ministry. The collection of offal was not satisfactory and nuisance was caused as a result.

Imported Meat for the district is handled at Craven Arms and distributed from here to the butchers. In this case also, storage space is unsatisfactory, the meat being placed on the concrete floor of a shed which is also used for hanging offal in. This is a contravention of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, and the attention of the Ministry of Food and the Wholesale Meat Supply Association has been repeatedly drawn to the conditions prevailing. Further, when the shed is used for this purpose it is not available for inspection purposes, which results in considerable inconvenience.

It is understood that the Ministry is now requisitioning another store on the premises and it is hoped that conditions will soon be more satisfactory.

About 95% of all animals slaughtered have been inspected and this has entailed visiting the slaughter house on four afternoons per week.

The number of animals slaughtered have been :-

Cattle	...	1,694	Sheep	...	9,147
Calves	...	562	Pigs	...	100

The amounts condemned have been as follows :-

For Tuberculosis	...	...	10,201 lbs.
For other diseases	...	...	29,655 lbs.
Total			<u>39,866 lbs.</u>

The figure for Tuberculosis includes 14 Bovine Carcasses, and that for other diseases includes—

17 Cattle; 14 Calves; 92 Sheep; 3 Pigs.

OTHER FOODS.

More than 2,000 lbs. of Tinned and other Foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and had to be destroyed. This included Beans, Pork, Evaporated Milk, Rice, Marmalade, Plums, Soup, Herrings, Cod, Pilchards, etc., etc.

MILK.

Producers on register	...	...	289
Accredited Producers	...	...	22
T.T. Producers	...	...	5
Inspections made	...	...	46
Informal Notices served	...	...	18
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	17

Milk from producers sending it to depôts is examined at these twice monthly for keeping qualities and general cleanliness.

The matter of producer-retailers is more difficult, as with so many producers it is not possible to sample milk from all of them.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of cases of each disease notified during the year ending 31st December, 1944, together with the deaths from each disease, and the numbers admitted to the Isolation Hospital :-

Disease.			Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	12	2	0
Pneumonia	...	...	8	0	4
Erysipelas	...	...	3	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	2	2	0
Dysentery	...	...	27	0	0
Measles	...	...	13	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	1	0	1

Notification rate per 1,000 of population = 4.7

Death-rate per 1,000 of population = 0.36

It will be seen that there was no serious outbreak of any Infectious Disease during the year. No notification of **Diphtheria** was received during the year. Immunisation of the children was continued and it is estimated that 90% of the school children and nearly 70% of the children under five years have been protected.

The following figures show the number immunised in the two age groups 1-5 years and 5-15 years by (a) Private Practitioners and (b) the County Health Staff during 1944 :-

Under 5 Years		5-15 Years	
Private Doctors	County Health Staff	Private Doctors	County Health Staff
29	125	29	97

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was as follows :-

MALES.		FEMALES.		Total.
Pulmon.	Non-pulmon.	Pulmon.	Non-pulmon	
42	47	43	48	170

NEW CASES.—Fifteen new cases were notified and of these thirteen were Pulmonary (seven male and six female) and two were Non-pulmonary (male one, female one).

DEATHS.—Thirteen deaths took place—eleven from the Pulmonary form and two from Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. The Pulmonary deaths are nearly three times (eleven as against four) the numbers in 1943 or in 1942. The increase is evenly divided between the sexes (five male and six female) and the age distribution will be seen from the table :-

	Ludlow R.D.	Eng. & Wales (1943)
Pulmonary Death-rate per 1,000 of pop.	0·788	0·557
Non-Pulmon. Death-rate per 1,000 of pop.	0·143	0·111
Total Death-rate (all forms)	0·931	0·668

SANATORIUM TREATMENT.—During the year eight cases were notified as having been admitted to a Sanatorium and seven discharged.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1944.
(IN AGE GROUPS)

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5 yrs.								1
5-15 „	1							
15-25 „	1	3		1		2	1	
25-35 „	4	2			3	2		
35-45 „		1	1		1	1		
45-55 „					1			
55-65 „	1					1		
Over 65 yrs.								
Totals	7	6	1	1	5	6	1	1

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.—This scheme was instituted in order to help families in which the wage-earner was undergoing treatment with a view to his being able to resume work. At present, therefore, it is confined to such cases as will be restored to health in a reasonable period of time. A total of seven cases in this area received allowances during 1944. It is to be hoped that the scheme will be extended in the future to cover a larger number of cases, as Tuberculosis is, to some extent, a disease of poverty. Good food is essential if the contacts are to successfully resist infection.

CANCER.

The total deaths from Cancer numbered twenty-five (males eleven and females fourteen), and this is about the same as in the two previous years.

DEATH-RATE per million living = 1,795

The rate for England and Wales was = 1,834 (1942).

